OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: August 29, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

SYNOPSIS:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Per instructions of the Bureau, the St. Louis Office obtained copies of a statement allegedly dictated by James Earl Ray, who is presently incarcerated in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville, Tennessee, which was read by his brother Jerry Ray in a taped interview on station KMOX-TV, St. Louis, Missouri, on the evening of 8/14/69. [redacted]

In his statement Ray claims he was working with Federal Agents including one "Raoul" in supplying arms for the overthrow of the Castro regime in Spring, 1968, and was in Memphis for same purpose when King was killed and he was used as a "fall guy" to cover the killing. He does not identify the "Federal Agents." It is, of course, not the FBI. He states that his case of travel through Canadian and Mexican borders was a result of Federal Agents' aid and he claims FBI knew of his movements in Mexico. This is not true as Ray traveled in Mexico in Fall, 1967, and we traced these travels after the killing of King in April, 1968. He intimates that former Attorney General Ramsey Clark possibly has knowledge of the plot and will be ruined along with Ray's former Attorneys, Percy Foreman and Arthur Hanes, as well as author William Bradford Huie, who wrote articles on Ray in "Look" magazine. Ray indicates he hopes to talk to CBS in person in near future unless blocked by State and Federal authorities. No information has been developed indicating any Federal Agencies were involved in the King murder and there does not appear to be any logical connection between anti-Castro activities against the killing of King.

REC-89 44-1741-5810

Enclosure

SEP 15 1969

SEP 5 1969

ACTION - OVER

...r to Deloach Memorandum
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

Although it is not known whether, in fact, James Earl Ray dictated the statement or if it was manufactured by his brother Jerry Ray, in view of its non-substantiated content, it is not felt that we should further pursue it at this time. A copy of the statement is being furnished to the Civil Rights Division for its information with advice that no inquiries are being conducted on the contents of this statement unless specifically requested. We will remain alert to any additional statements by Ray or any other individuals relating to this case and thoroughly run out any leads of pertinence.

Attached for approval is letter to Civil Rights Division forwarding a copy of Ray's statement.

A copy of Ray's statement is being furnished to the Memphis Office for its information.

DETAILS - OVER

[illegible] to DeLoach Memorandum
RE: MURKIN

DETAILS:

JAMES EARL RAY'S STATEMENT:

Ray claims that in the Spring of 1968, he was working with Agents of the Federal Government, including "Raoul" and was told that he, Ray, was assisting in supplying arms to Cuban refugees to overthrow Castro and the Communists in Cuba. He states that he was led to believe that he was in Memphis in April (1968) for the same purpose when, in fact, he was actually used as a "fall guy" to cover up the killing of King by Federal Agents. He points out that the facility with which he crossed the Canadian and Mexican borders would be impossible without the help of Federal Agents who with the Mexican Police afforded him protection in Mexico.

Ray states that William Bradford Huie admits that the FBI and Mexican Police knew all of Ray's movements in Mexico and he did not know of King being in Memphis until after the shooting. He states that he realizes that the Federal Agents had no interest in overthrowing Castro and only used him to cover up the killing of King. He continues that two Federal Agencies are guilty and he is innocent and that he hopes that some higher Government official will expose the plot so that he will be freed from prison. Ray states that he does not know what motives the Federal Agents had for killing King and suggests that former Attorney General Ramsey Clark be asked as he may know.

Ray, in closing, stated he wanted to pass along a message to Percy Foreman, Arthur Hanes (two of Ray's former Attorneys) and William Bradford Huie (author who wrote articles on Ray) that they got their wish but they along with Ramsey Clark would be ruined before this matter is closed. He indicates he hopes to talk to CBS in person in the near future if Tennessee State and Federal authorities don't block it.

ANALYSIS:

Raoul is the individual who, according to William Bradford Huie's articles in "Look" magazine which were based on Ray's statements to Huie, was endeavoring to make some type of deal concerning a "joint activity" for which Raoul would pay Ray $12,000. The specific nature of the "joint activity" was not fully described or identified but Ray was to transport packages between the United States and Canada. The possibility exists that the packages could contain contraband such as narcotics.

DETAILS CONTINUED-OVER

...oach to DeLoach Memorandum
RE: MURKIN

Extensive investigation has been conducted in an effort to identify Raoul to no avail. No information has been developed indicating Ray was connected with any United States Federal Agency or the Mexican Police or involved in any way with anti-Castro activities. The procedures for passage between the United States and Canada and Mexico, respectively are not difficult nor do they require any particular Governmental sanction. There is no statement in the William Bradford Huie articles on Ray wherein Huie alleges that the FBI and Mexican Police knew all of Ray's movements in Mexico. During the course of our extensive investigation we have substantially accounted for Ray's whereabouts from the time of his escape from prison in April, 1967, until his apprehension in London in June, 1968, and his subsequent incarceration in the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville, Tennessee.

No information has been developed that the Mexican Police Authorities were aware of his presence or activities in Mexico. Ray states that he realizes that the so called Federal Agents had no interest in overthroving Castro and their whole purpose was to use him to cover up their own crime. There does not appear to be any logical connection between anti-Castro activities and the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., and it is not felt that we should pursue the non-substantiated information in Ray's statement unless additional information is developed warranting such action.